

# Itinerary #9

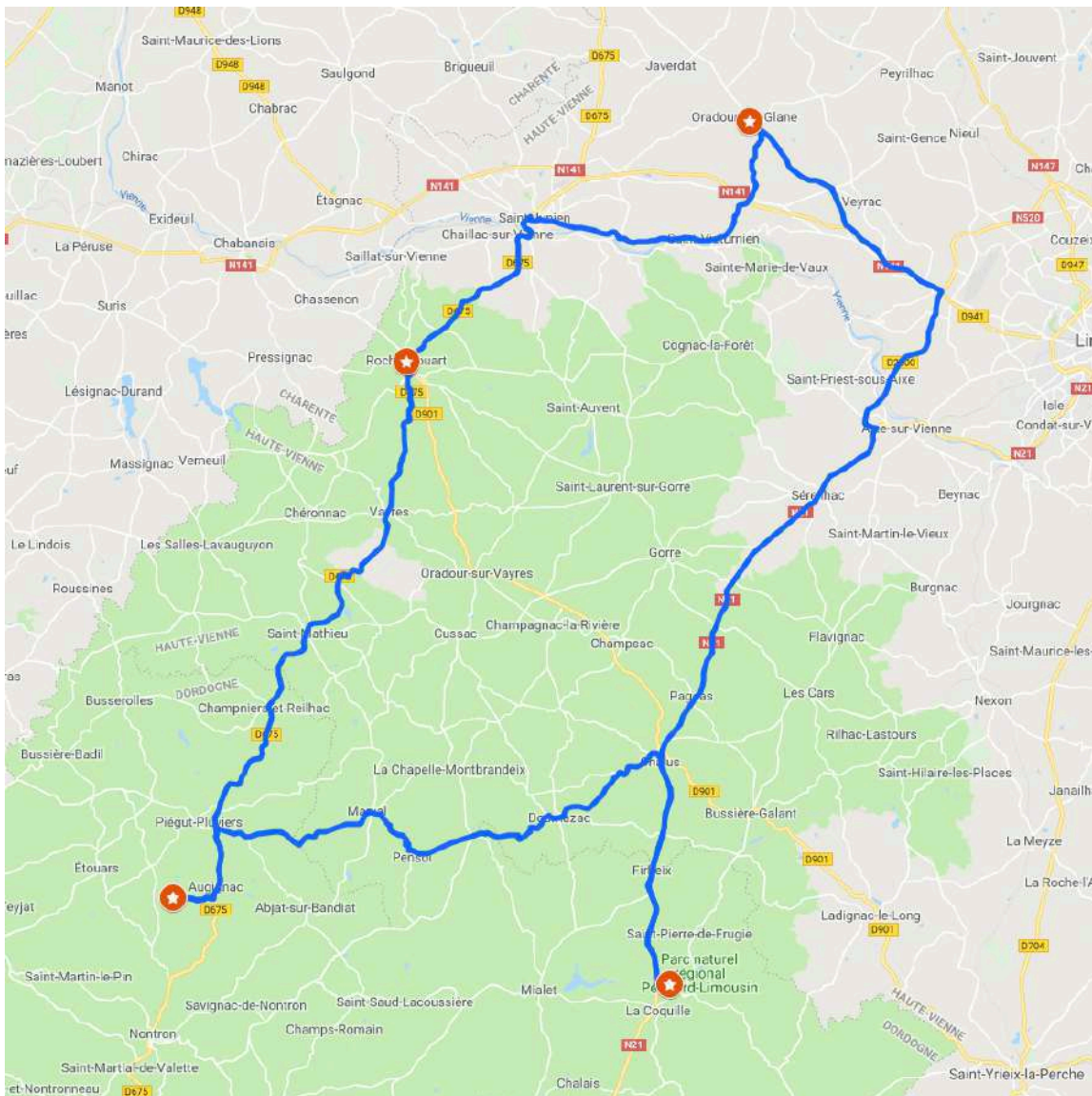
## Quiet Contemplation



**Trip Time: 7.5 hours \***

**Distance: 164 km**

0:45 to Oradour-sur-Glane	(55 km)
0:30 to Rochechouart	(28 km)
0:30 to Grand Etang de St Estèphe	(35 km)
0:45 to Bonne Routes	(46 km)



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## Main Sites

### Oradour-sur-Glane \*



3 hour visit

On 10 June 1944, the village of Oradour-sur-Glane in Nazi-occupied France was destroyed, when 642 of its inhabitants, including women and children, were massacred by a German Waffen-SS company. A new village was built nearby after the war, but French president Charles de Gaulle ordered the original maintained as a permanent memorial and museum. This is a haunting and powerful place to visit.

**The museum** explores the rise of the Nazis, the Resistance, life in Oradour, the massacre, and the aftermath including the trials and political repercussions. Multi-lingual audio guides provide far more background than the wall displays, and it is worthwhile taking the time to listen to the stories from some of the people involved. The museum tour ends with a powerful film.

**The Village of the Martyrs** accessed through the underpass in the museum, offers a unique, moving and humbling experience. All of the key locations highlighted in the story of Oradour can be found. Visit the cemetery (still in use today) and the memorial at the far side of the village, and don't miss the underground memorial which displays everyday items rescued from the ruins.

The Centre de la mémoire is open 7 days a week. It is an experience you will never forget.

### Rochechouart



1 hour visit

The fairy tale chateau at Rochechouart houses an art museum (Musée d'art contemporain), which has the added benefit of enabling you to see inside a number of rooms in the chateau.

The museum offers examples of 16th century French Renaissance frescoes, which remained little known for many centuries. Information leaflets are available at the museum's reception desk to help visitors get the most out of the château, collections, in situ works, current exhibitions and the historic rooms. Free Sunday events (first Sunday of the month excluding July/August) are an opportunity to enjoy concerts, choreographies, stories or reading events in the exhibition rooms.

In the cliff-top gardens behind the chateau, an art installation is dedicated to the meteorite impact that took place here 200 million years ago - the biggest meteorite impact in France. It also gives you a great view over the valley.

There is a tiny museum in the town dedicated to the solar system, meteorites, and the impact of these falling objects, including the impact of 200 million years ago.

Rochechouart is a beautiful village for a quiet meander and to soak up a bit of astronomical history.

## Grand Etang de St Estèphe



1 hour visit

The lake at Saint-Estèphe is one of the largest and most beautiful stretches of water in the department, lying in a rural area of meadows, woodland, ponds and granite outcrops. It is also one of the most popular with holiday makers in July and August!

Nearby are the picturesque Roc Branlant (wobbly rock) and Chapelet du Diable (Devil's rosary) which you can walk to following the marked trails. There is a relaxing 45 minute walk around the lake, although be warned that you may have to pull yourself across the lake on the Bac!

In season you can find a café and great ice-cream selection at the beach, a restaurant next to the lake (Le Moulin) and La Bodega (offering informal snack-food, grill, salad).

### \* Note:

*Times do not include stopping for lunch.*

### **Oradour-sur-Glane:**

*You need to leave your passport, driving licence or other "security" when you pick up the audio guides in the museum. This is returned when you finish the museum exhibit.*

*It is worth buying a guide leaflet/book in the gift shop before walking around the village.*

*Photography is now allowed in the village but please be respectful – this is a memorial.*

*There are limited dining options in the new village of Oradour. Try the Hotel de la Glane on the square (Avenue 10 de juin) for a meal or the boulangerie/pâtisserie where you could get a lunch to go.*